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COUNTRY Poland

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SUBJECT Gen. Swierczewski's Assassination

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1. Military circles in Poland believe that the killing of Gen. Swierczewski was a carefully planned murder committed by, or with the connivance of, the MVD. This opinion is supported by the staff of the 8th Detachment of the WOP (Frontier Guards), the unit Gen. Swierczewski intended to inspect during the tour on which he met his death. The theory that the General was liquidated to rid the Soviets of a troublesome opponent is given further credibility by a consideration of his background and the immediate circumstances of his death.
2. The most significant feature in the General's background was his frequent differences of opinion with the Soviets and the PPR Politburo. He was, however, highly regarded in the Polish Army where he demonstrated capabilities as an organizer, and displayed an efficiency and intelligence superior to all other Polish generals. In his efforts to create a well-trained army with high morale and loyalty, he had demanded the discharge of thieves, drunkards, and the like, and had opposed further drafting of the lower classes. He also demanded eradication of the UPA (Ukrainian Partisans). Before leaving on his inspection tour, Gen. Swierczewski conferred for two hours with Marshal Zymierski, then spent four hours with Gen. Spychalski, director of education in the A Forces.
3. The cars conveying Gen. Swierczewski and his entourage on the fateful inspection trip were under UP guard despite prior assurance from the UB that the proposed route was free of UPA bands. The General's car was preceded and followed by a lorry load of UB guards. At the moment of ambush, however, the leading lorry had speeded far ahead of the General's car, while the lorry in the rear had fallen back. The attack was therefore directed solely against the General's unguarded vehicle as it passed through a hazardous forest area. The attackers' use of heavy caliber weapons indicates that they not only knew the convoy's itinerary but possessed some means of transport.

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